



Breslau/Stanley Park Pupil Accommodation Review
Minutes of Public Meeting # 2
May 25, 2010
Stanley Park P.S. – 7:00 p.m.

The second Public Meeting of the Breslau/Stanley Park Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review was held at Stanley Park P.S. on May 25, 2010.

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Chris Smith, Manager of Planning welcomed members of the public, school communities, Trustees and Board staff present for the evening, and made the following introductions:

Trustee Ted Martin, Gregg Bereznick, Area Superintendent, Bill Grobe, Principal of Breslau P.S., Trish Starodub, Principal of Smithson P.S., Pauline Shiry, Principal of Mackenzie King P.S., Jane Pritchard, Principal of Franklin P.S., Karin Bileski, Vice Principal of Crestview P.S., Nathan Hercanuck, Senior Planner, Lauren Manske, Planner and Mary Hingley, Recording Secretary.

Carolyn Griffiths, Principal of Crestview P.S. and Dayle Buller-Power, Principal of Lackner Woods P.S. have sent their regrets.

Thank you to Rob MacQueen, Principal of Stanley Park P.S., and our host here this evening.

Approximately 100 members of the public were also in attendance.

Mr. Smith gave a brief overview of the Pupil Accommodation Review process and what it means for the seven schools in the Breslau/Stanley Park review area:

- The Board initiated an Accommodation Review for this area last fall.
- Principals and school community representatives, along with municipal representation, a broader community participant and Board staff create a working group described formally as the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC).
- The task of the ARC is to look at the school issues in the area in detail and come up with suggestions/solutions to consider as the ARC moves towards a final recommendation (or series of recommendations) for the Board to consider and possibly implement. These suggestions are referred to as “scenarios”.
- Tonight is the second Public Meeting for the Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review, and the intent is to get some of your thoughts on initial scenarios the ARC has been looking at for the elementary schools in the review area.
- These are early days in the process, so the idea for tonight is to look at a wide range of options/scenarios, discuss them, reject some and keep or modify the ones that have merit. There will be four scenarios put forth tonight for your consideration.

- What we would like to know is: do any of the scenarios or parts of them make enough sense that we should look at them in more detail, such as costing.
- You may see for the first time this evening a suggested change to your child's home school, or program. There are school closures in the scenarios. It is important to note that at this point nothing has been decided, we are looking for your thoughts, what you like, what you think may have been missed. Does the overall picture make sense?
- Things like timing and how we would implement the suggested changes also have not been decided at this point.
- The Ministry of Education has announced that the New Pupil Place (NPP) model for funding will no longer be used. That is where we get money to build new schools, additions and major renovations.
- It is anticipated that we will be moving towards a needs-based model, where the Board will be required to make a business case to the Ministry of Education for what is needed.
- The Board makes their decisions but implementation will be based on money coming from the Ministry.
- The Board is 100% dependant on the Province for its Capital dollars.
- Important to note that there are no firm details of the new funding model yet, we may not see one for a year or so.
- Whatever recommendations the ARC does come up with, timing may be difficult to confirm.

Mr. Smith added that we can still do good planning, but implementation may be delayed by a year or two. It may be easier to put up with temporary overcrowding when we know that a plan/solution is in place.

Mr. Hercanuck then led the group through tonight's presentation to preview the scenarios:

- link for the Breslau/Stanley Park Public Meeting # 2 presentation:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/sites/www.wrdsb.ca/files/25May.10publicmtg.presentation.pdf>

2. Brief Review – Accommodation Review Process – Issues

- Each year Board Planning Staff reviews the enrolment and accommodation situation in the Board's jurisdiction to see if there are any areas where there are enrolment and capacity issues within their facilities.
- If further analysis indicates that measures being implemented, such as the construction of a new facility, approved boundary changes, or local demographic factors will not resolve the situation in the short term, staff will bring forward recommendations to undertake a boundary study or an accommodation review to develop intermediate or long-term solutions.
- Both are public processes involving extensive community consultation, however there are differences, the largest being that under an Accommodation Review there exists the possibility of school closure/consolidation.
- The Breslau/Stanley Park Accommodation Review area includes the Breslau P.S. catchment and the adjacent Stanley Park P.S. boundary. Mackenzie King, Smithson,

Crestview and portions of Lackner Woods and Franklin public schools feed to Stanley Park P.S. for the senior 7/8 program.

- Recent municipal servicing brought across the Grand River to Breslau from Kitchener has allowed typically dense urban residential development to proceed within Breslau. This development has significantly increased enrolment at Breslau P.S. to the point where it is over capacity and operating with 8 portables. Further development planned in the coming years around the school is projected to place additional pressure on the built facility of Breslau P.S. if no action is taken. This is contrasted with the smaller yet stable enrolments in the older residential areas around Smithson and Mackenzie King schools.
- The Accommodation Review Committee is comprised of:
 - two parents from each school community in the review area
 - the principal from each school in the review area
 - the school area instructional superintendent
 - WRDSB Planning staff who will act as a resource to the ARC
 - Municipal staff, in this case the City of Kitchener and the Township of Woolwich who will bring a perspective on local development and other municipal issues
 - up to two representatives from local community organizations
 - one other Board representative, in this case the Manager of Capital Projects, who brings a perspective on the condition of our facilities

3. Draft Review Objectives

- One of the first tasks of the ARC is to develop Review Objectives.
- The objectives are the stated goals of the Accommodation Review, or what the eventual solution/option hopes to achieve. These objectives will be used as the decision screen by which the scenarios are evaluated.
- The Draft Review Objectives – listed below have been brought forward to tonight’s meeting for broader public comment:
 - *Provide current and future students in the review area with equitable program opportunities to ensure their success by:*
 - *Having regard for the Good Schools Standing Committee guiding principles on school size*
 - *Reviewing elementary school organizations (i.e. JK-6, 7-8, JK-8)*
 - *Recognizing the distribution of Special Education, French Immersion and English as a Second Language programs*
 - *Support the optimal use of facilities, capital and operating resources through the consideration of:*
 - *School location*
 - *Recognize the relationship/identity of community to local elementary school*
 - *Minimize transportation costs in the long-term by maximizing the number of students within walking distance of a school*
 - *Facility amenities and condition*
 - *Maximize the number of students housed in permanent accommodation*
 - *Priorities for physical accessibility of facilities by the Accessibility Committee*

- *Site*
- *Safety and security*
- *Develop a solution that is long-term (approximately 10 years) by taking into consideration:*
 - *Consistency of feeds to senior elementary and secondary school programs*
 - *Future development plans and demographic shifts*
- *Consider student transitions*

4. Scenarios

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the scenarios for discussion this evening:

Status Quo: (current situation)

- Ongoing and approved future development within the Breslau P.S. catchment places further enrolment pressure on the facility. Population is projected to exceed school size guidelines recommended by the Good Schools Standing Committee for a JK-8 facility (approximately 500-600 pupils).
- Mackenzie King P.S. and Smithson P.S. continue to face challenges with respect to programming as the school sizes are below the Good Schools Standing Committee guidelines for a JK-6 facility (approximately 350-500 pupils).
- Lackner Woods P.S. and Franklin P.S. continue to have split feeds to two different congregated senior elementary programs (they feed to both Sunnyside and Stanley Park public schools for the 7/8 program).

Comments:

- Mackenzie King and Smithson schools are projected to remain fairly stable; however they are smaller organizations than what the Board likes to see for JK-6.
- Crestview P.S. remains a good size for a JK-6, a little on the large size but within the capacity of the facility.
- Stanley Park maintains a good size for a senior elementary program declining slightly.
- Lackner Woods and Franklin schools are involved in this review primarily because some of their boundaries feed Stanley Park P.S. Development pressure is expected to place stress on these school facilities much like Breslau P.S. The solution for these 2 schools will be addressed in the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review currently running.

Mr. Hercanuck noted some of the additional programs at facilities in the review area, and gave an overview of the maps and charts in the presentation.

- Smithson P.S. currently runs a number of Special Education programs that take in students from outside its boundary, most notably a congregated hearing program. Crestview P.S. currently has a French Immersion (FI) program and Stanley Park P.S. runs the senior FI program as well as a couple of Special Education programs.
- To simplify looking at the enrolment projections we have chosen three points in time: 2010, 2015 and 2019. We have done projections for each year but to avoid having a very large chart we've chosen these 3 years.
 - There will be no changes for September 2010, so depending on the option chosen we are looking at implementation somewhere between 2011 and 2014.

- For the 2010 time period we have 2 enrolments: Total and FTE (full time equivalent).
- FTE counts the kindergarten children as half a student – as they are only at school half time. The Provincial government has begun phasing in all day learning for 4 and 5 year olds. By 2015 every school board in the province is mandated to have the program instituted at all of its facilities, so that's why the 2015 and 2019 columns only look at Total students.
- The percentage column is a calculation describing how full a facility is (the FTE or Total enrolment divided by the Ministry of Education rated capacity of the facility). Some of the scenarios you will see tonight will show a percentage capacity significantly over 100%, indicating the relative need for additional accommodation/facility. The SR column indicates the enrolment of the senior elementary (7/8) program if applicable.

Scenario 1:

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. (JK-6) and Stanley Park P.S. (7/8).
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King P.S. to Smithson P.S.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. (7/8), eliminating the split feeds for Lackner Woods and Franklin schools.

Comments:

- Enrolments at Mackenzie King and Smithson schools increase closer to the size guidelines for a JK-6.
- Crestview P.S. maintains its enrolment and increases slightly but is still within its built capacity.
- Not much change for Stanley Park P.S., while it did gain Area E from Breslau P.S. it gave up those Franklin and Lackner Woods pieces to Sunnyside P.S.
- Breslau P.S. enrolment numbers decrease with the shift of Area E, but is right back up in the mid to long range. Most of the growth at Breslau P.S. is in the primary and junior grades and taking out Area E which is a more established neighbourhood will significantly reduce the size of the senior program to below the Good Schools Standing Committee guidelines in the short to mid-term.

Scenario 2:

- Area E moves from Breslau P.S. to Mackenzie King P.S. which becomes JK-8.
- Area C moves from Mackenzie King P.S. to Smithson P.S.
- Smithson P.S. (JK-6) Areas B, C, G feed to Mackenzie King P.S. for grades 7/8.
- Stanley Park P.S. closes – French Immersion and Special Education programs move to Crestview P.S. which becomes JK-8.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S.

Comments:

- This scenario represents a JK-8 model, with the closure of Stanley Park P.S. and the conversion of Mackenzie King and Crestview to JK-8's.
- There is no change to Breslau P.S. from Scenario 1. Enrolment at Smithson is increased closer to school size guidelines, as is Mackenzie King P.S. Crestview becomes a JK-8 and is a bit large.

- Under this scenario we would need to duplicate the 7/8 facilities that already exist at Stanley Park P.S. at Crestview and Mackenzie King schools.

Scenario 5:

- Area E1 moves from Breslau P.S. to Crestview P.S. (JK-6) and Stanley Park for 7/8.
- Smithson and Mackenzie King schools are closed and those areas attend a new facility at Rosemount.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8.

Comments:

- This scenario sees the closure of Mackenzie King and Smithson schools, and a new JK-6 facility constructed on the former Rosemount P.S. site the Board still owns. The new school would take in students from the existing Mackenzie King and Smithson boundaries.
- The new Rosemount school would see an enrolment around 400 (a good size with respect to the guidelines). Would also receive all of the Special Education programs from Smithson P.S.
- Area E would be split with a portion remaining at Breslau P.S. and a portion attending Crestview P.S. The division would be along Keewatin Avenue.
- Stanley Park P.S. remains the 7/8 senior elementary school for the area.
- Breslau P.S. enrolment is reduced although not to the same degree as with the previous scenarios that saw all of Area E removed from its catchment.

Scenario 6:

- Mackenzie King P.S. receives Area E from Breslau P.S. and Area B from Smithson P.S.
- Smithson P.S. is closed and Area G goes to Sheppard P.S. (JK-6) to offset reduction in enrolment at Sheppard caused by proposed new school construction and boundary changes in the Grand River South/Sunnyside Accommodation Review. Area G remains at Stanley Park P.S. for 7/8.
- Areas P and T move from Stanley Park P.S. to Sunnyside P.S. for 7/8, eliminating the split feed from Franklin and Lackner Woods schools.

Comments:

- This scenario crosses into the Grand River South/Sunnyside review. The ARC recognizes that because the two review areas are adjacent to each other, there may exist opportunities for the solutions to overlap.
- Mackenzie King P.S. becomes home for the Special Education programs displaced by the closure of Smithson P.S., and would require an addition/renovation for the increase in enrolment.
- Area G gets shifted from the Smithson boundary to Sheppard P.S. to offset the decline in enrolment when new facilities are built as a result of the review and Sheppard P.S. is no longer acting as a holding school for the overcrowded Lackner Woods P.S. catchment. In taking Area G to Sheppard P.S. the graduating grade 6 classes would be split 3 ways between Courtland, Sunnyside and Stanley Park senior 7/8 schools.

5. Break Out Sessions

Mr. Smith advised the group that we would break into smaller groups for some discussion on each of the scenarios presented.

- On the bottom right-hand corner of the comment sheet you picked up when you came in tonight, you will notice a number. That number will be the group you have been assigned to. We like to split you up in this way with the hope that we will get some different perspectives in each discussion group.
- A few of the Review area Principals and Vice Principals have offered to help facilitate our break out sessions. Planning staff will be circulating to answer any questions groups may have.
- We will reconvene in the gym in about an hour, and do a brief wrap up.
- If you would like to submit your comment sheet tonight, there is a box provided at the door, otherwise you can email us your comments at: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca
- Group #1 will be facilitated by Rob MacQueen.
- Group #2 will be facilitated by Jane Pritchard.
- Group #3 will be facilitated by Trish Starodub.
- Group # 4 will be facilitated by Pauline Shiry.
- Group #5 will be facilitated by Bill Grobe.

The break out sessions began at 7:40 p.m. and the group reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

6. General Question & Answer Session

Mr. Smith thanked the facilitators and recorders for their assistance, as well as everyone else for coming out to the Public Meeting, and opened the floor to any questions/comments.

Q – In Scenario 5 we see the closure of Smithson and Mackenzie King schools and the building of a new school on the Rosemount P.S. site. What would happen to the Special Education programs that are currently running at Rosemount?

R – Rosemount currently houses about 20 students in special education classes within our Board. The other wing of the school is under a lease agreement to the Board with older students under custodial arrangements. These programs would be relocated. The building would then be torn down and rebuilt as a fully accessible JK-6 facility.

Q – If we have tips/suggestions for the scenarios, where do we send them?

R – You can send in comments to our email address: boundaryfeedback@wrdsb.on.ca, call us at 519-570-0003 ext. 4419, or contact your school reps on the ARC through your school council.

7. Next Steps

Mr. Hercanuck outlined the next steps in the process and proposed timing.

- There will be one more meeting of the ARC prior to summer break at which the ARC will review the feedback received from tonight's meeting. The feedback will be used to refine the scenarios, develop new ones and look at the objectives.
- The ARC will reconvene in September to continue their work. As a minimum we are required to hold at least four public meetings. There will be at least two more, likely one in October and perhaps mid December.

- At Public Meeting # 3 we will have more scenarios. Perhaps new ones, tweaked versions of the ones you saw tonight, but all will include more detail. For example, the impact on transportation and the costing of construction upgrades/new builds.
- Public Meeting # 4 or the last public meeting (if no more than 4 are required), will be to share the ARC's Report and Recommendations to the Board of Trustees and public.
- Once the ARC's Report has been submitted, the Trustees must wait 60 days (not including spring break) before they can vote on the matter.
- If the ARC submits their Report in early January, it could mean we will have a decision by March or April 2011.

Mr. Smith thanked all for coming, and asked for any comment sheets to be placed in the box provided if desired.

- The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Contact Info:

Website:

<http://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/accommodation-reviews/breslau-stanley-park-elementary-schools-accommodation-review>

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